

- B1*  
*match*
- removing the interpolymer from the mixer, adding an extender to provide said extended polyalkylene-grafted interpolymer; and
  - d) optionally, extruding the extended polyalkylene-grafted interpolymer to form a gel having a tan  $\delta$  of at least 0.3.

*B2*

2 (amended). The process of claim 1 wherein step a) includes mixing from about 50 to about 99 weight percent of said polymer and from about 1 to about 50 weight percent of said maleated polyalkylene and wherein step b) includes adding from about 0.1 to about 10 weight percent of said diamine.

*B2*

4 (twice amended). The process of claim 1 wherein steps b), c) and, optionally a) are carried out sequentially with no physical manipulation of said polyalkylene grafted interpolymer prior to step c).

- B3*  
*B2*
- 13 (amended). A single batch process for preparing a polymer composition which includes a polyalkylene-grafted interpolymer, said process comprising:
- a) forming a maleimide interpolymer in a mixing vessel by reacting an amine with a portion of maleic anhydride-derived mer units of an interpolymer comprising maleic anhydride-derived mer units and at least one of
    - 1) vinyl aromatic-derived mer units, and
    - 2)  $R^1(R^2)$ ethylene-derived mer units in which  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  independently are H or substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$  to  $C_{20}$  alkyl groups or alkoxy groups;
  - b) adding sufficient maleated polyalkylene such that the mixing vessel contains from about 1 to about 50 weight percent maleated polyalkylene and from about 50 to about 99 weight percent maleimide interpolymer;
  - c) without removing the product of step b) from the vessel, mixing from about 0.1 to about 10 weight percent of a diamine with the maleimide interpolymer and maleated polyalkylene in the mixing vessel to form said polyalkylene-grafted interpolymer; and
  - d) without removing the product of step c) from the vessel, cooling the polyalkylene-grafted interpolymer to a temperature at which an extender is stable in the polyalkylene-grafted interpolymer and adding an extender to the mixer.